2004 Report of Accomplishments
North Yakima Conservation District

Natural Resource Improvements in 2004 - Summary

- *The NYCD implemented riparian and wetland restoration BMP's on 111 acres. BMP's included tree and shrub planting, water crossings, weed abatement and fencing.*
- *The NYCD assessed fish habitat, inventoried barriers and evaluated riparian habitat on approximately 60 miles of salmon bearing streams and tributaries.*
- *The NYCD designed and installed one 10 cfs gravity rotating drum fish screen and ten pump fish sreens.*

Mission of the North Yakima Conservation District

- *To be the natural resource management and protection leader within the NYCD boundaries focusing on water, soil, air, and fish and wildlife issues. The district will strive to be self-sufficient, non-regulatory conduit of voluntary assistance to local landowners, schools and the community at large. The NYCD will strive to assist Yakima County and other governmental agencies in addressing land use and natural resource problems and solutions.*

Water Quality Implementation

- *Monson Project Phase 2: Constructed three acres of wetlands and established 2700 feet of riparian habitat along Taylor Ditch (side channel of the Yakima River). BMP's included wetland plantings, tree and shrub plantings, weed abatement and fencing.*
- *Hargroves and Wright Projects: These two projects on adjacent properties on the Wenas Creek protected water quality and established buffers on Wenas Creek. BMP's included hardened crossings, tree and shrub plantings and livestock exclusion.*

Basic Funding

- *The NYCD utilizes its Basic Funding to support basic District operations, the most important of which is to maintain NYCD's local assessment. This local assessment is then utilized to leverage and/or initiate all of NYCD's Project's and Programs.*

Local Funding

- *The NYCD actively sought and secured a special assessment pursuant to RCW 89.08. The special assessment will be for a period of ten years (2005-2014) and is expected to net approximately $74,000 annually.*
- *The NYCD will utilize this special assessment to sponsor, match or leverage other local, State, and Federal funding sources that will carryout NYCD's Annual and Long Range Plans.*

Professional Engineering

- *The NYCD participates in an engineering cluster with four other Districts. This Program provides engineering services to NYCD's overall program.*
- *Engineering services from this Program have been used to plan, design and implement several Projects for NYCD. These include Taylor Ditch Diversionary Structure, Upper Lust Fish screen and Barrier Removal and Pellicer Barrier Removal. The Engineering Program has also supported several other projects related to NYCD's overall program.*

Irrigation Efficiencies

- *The NYCD continues to work with several entities and landowner groups to establish Trust Water for in-stream flows on several flow critical tributaries. The most significant of which is the Upper and Lower Lust projects on Cowiche Creek.*

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- *The Buchanan Ranch Project: This SRFB Project which is entering its 5th and final year is implementing a comprehensive restoration Plan on 290 acres along a 2-mile stretch of Wenas Creek starting at its mouth at the Yakima River. This year the SRFB funding was expanded to include two adjacent properties within the current funding limits. The three restoration plans establish riparian areas, correct/remove fish passage barriers and protect water quality.*
- *The NYCD is actively participating in the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program. This Program provides for stream habitat assessment, fish screen needs and barrier identification. After tributary assessment NYCD establishes a Tributary Team comprised of local watershed landowners who evaluate the technical assessment and adopt it as an "implementation plan". The NYCD has established the Cowiche Tributary Team and is well underway towards implantation of barrier removal, fish screening and habitat improvement within this watershed.*

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices